



Bilateral research collaboration with South Asia and Iran 2017 – 2020

Call for seed money grants with South Asia and Iran 2018

1. Background

The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) has commissioned ZHAW as Leading House for the bilateral research collaboration with partner institutions in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The current seed money call aims at developing new or consolidating existing partnerships with institutions in countries where research partnerships are so far underexplored. As there is no notable research collaboration between the Swiss scientific community and its counterparts in the designated countries other than India, **seed money grants will be utilised to stimulate partnerships in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.**

2. Goals and objectives

The goal of this seed money call is to develop links between Swiss researchers and scientists and institutions in the eight (8) countries mentioned above (hereafter called partner countries). Seed money should be utilized to develop a long-term partnership between two institutions. Such research partnerships should be based on mutual interest and benefits.

The call is open to any research theme that tackles challenges in the region of the partner countries (i.e. in Switzerland and/or any of the eight partner countries). Both monodisciplinary and multidisciplinary proposals are welcome.

3. Eligibility

Applicants need to be scientists with a Swiss federal or cantonal university, university of applied sciences or university of teachers' education, or a public research institution. The Swiss scientist is the principal applicant to this seed money grant call.

Research partners must be scientists affiliated to a university or a public research institute from one of the partner countries mentioned above. The principal investigator there must hold a faculty or senior scientist position with several years of research experience.

The call is open for activities in all scientific disciplines and fields of research, including research projects in social sciences and humanities, and will treat fundamental research and applied research equally. Applications are welcome from all age groups and both genders

You may find out about reciprocal grants to this seed money grant from the following organisations:

- Applicants in Afghanistan: Please approach the office at your institute that deals with international research collaboration. Additionally, please inquire with the Ministry of Higher Education for guidance.
- Applicants in Bangladesh: Please approach the office at your institute that deals with international research collaboration.



- Applicants in Bhutan: Please approach the office at your institute that deals with international research collaboration.
- Applicants in India: Please approach the office at your institute that deals with international research collaboration. Additionally, please inquire with the Department of Science & Technology DST, Department of Biotechnology DBT, or Indian Council of Social Science Research for guidance.
- Applicants in Iran: Please approach the office at your institute that deals with international research collaboration. Additionally, please inquire with the Swiss Desk at the University of Isfahan (<http://is-coweb.iut.ac.ir/en/content/iut-swiss-desk>) for guidance.
- Applicants in the Maldives: Please approach the office at your institute that deals with international research collaboration. Additionally, please inquire with the Foreign Relations Section of the Ministry of Education for guidance.
- Applicants in Nepal: Please approach the office at your institute that deals with international research collaboration.
- Applicants in Pakistan: Please approach the office at your institute that deals with international research collaboration.
- Applicants in Sri Lanka: Please approach the office at your institute that deals with international research collaboration.

4. Partnerships

The mutual commitment of the partners in both countries will serve as an indicator for the strength of the research project. This includes commitment of in-kind resources¹ by all partners.

The KFPE Guide for Transboundary Research Partnerships² shall be used as a guideline for the project process.

5. Funding and budgeting

- The maximum amount for a seed money grant is CHF 20,000.
- The grant will be disbursed in two instalments: 80% after signing the grant contract and 20% after approval of the final report and financial statement.
- A detailed budget is required when submitting the project proposal. Budgeted expenses must be justified and related to the proposed research activities.
- A contribution of each partner is expected and must be made explicit in cash and/or in-kind.

6. Application

Applications need to be submitted to the Leading House South Asia and Iran (leadinghouse@zhaw.ch).

¹ In-kind resources are any contributions that do not involve financial support, such as access to computers, software, office space and/or equipment) made by Swiss principal applicant, the partner institute in the partner country, and third party partners.

² [KFPE Guide for Transboundary Research Partnerships](#)



7. Timeline

- Launch of this call: 9 May 2018
- Applications will be accepted until: 31 July 2018
- Evaluation and funding decision: End of September 2018
- Notification: Within 2 weeks after the funding decision
- Latest project start date: End of 2018
- Project duration: up to 12 months

8. Evaluation and selection

Applications will be assessed by an independent evaluation panel and notified by the Leading House South Asia and Iran. The evaluation will be based on the following criteria (not listed in order of priority):

- Development of a new or consolidation of an existing partnership
- Scientific merit or impact of the anticipated outcomes
- Potential for long-term collaboration and follow-up activities
- Originality and Feasibility of the proposed activity
- Expertise and complementarities of the partner institutes and the applicants
- Contributions by all involved partners, including funding and in-kind contributions

9. Reporting

The Swiss principal applicant is responsible for administrating the funds and for reporting. He or she must submit a final scientific report as well as a financial statement not later than one month after the end of the project.

10. Contact

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Application form - Part 1

1. General Information

General information (to be provided by the principal applicant in Switzerland)	
In which country is your research partner? (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka)	
Your research project's title	
Fundamental research or applied research?	
Please provide keywords for the research project	
What is the intended start date of the proposed research project?	
What is the planned duration (up to 12 months) of the proposed research project?	

I hereby confirm that all the information given in this application and the attachments is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Place, Date

Swiss principal applicant

Place, Date

Main partner from foreign partner institution



1.1. Swiss principal applicant: Personal Data

Swiss principal applicant: Personal Data	
Family name	
First name(s)	
Academic degree	
Sex	
Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	
Nationality/nationalities	
Your Swiss institution's name (institution, department, etc.)	
City	
Email	
Phone numbers (country code, area code, phone number)	

1.2. Main collaborator in the partner country: Personal Data

Main collaborator in the partner country: Personal Data	
Family name	
First name(s)	
Academic degree	
Sex	
Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	
Nationality/nationalities	
Your foreign partner institution's name (institution, department, etc.)	
City	
Country	
Email	
Phone numbers (country code, area code, phone number)	



1.3. Additional collaborator(s) in Switzerland or the partner country (if applicable): Personal Data

Additional collaborator(s) in Switzerland or the partner country (if applicable)	
Family name	
First name(s)	
Academic degree	
Sex	
Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	
Nationality/nationalities	
Institution	
City	
Country	
Email	
Phone numbers (country code, area code, phone number)	



2. Budget

Please fill in the budget table below and present the contributions of each partner (financial and/or in-kind). Other funding sources must be mentioned as well. If necessary, additional rows may be added to the table.

- A roundtrip economy ticket for flights up to CHF 2,000 per trip may be included in this budget.
- Accommodation costs and or equipment for meetings can be granted. Please indicate the estimated costs in detail.
- Consumables in form of material required for conducting the research can be granted and should be outlined in the budget. Consumables in form of food and beverages are not granted.

2.1. Total requested Seed Money Grant

The total requested Seed Money Grant should include the project budget needed by both partner minus the contributions. The project must be financially viable.

Calculation of the amount which the Swiss principal applicant is applying for:

Total requested Seed Money Grant		Costs in CHF
Total budget required by the Swiss principal applicant Copy the amount from "2.2: TOTAL CHF"	+	
Total budget required by the partner(s) in the partner country Copy the amount from "2.4: from TOTAL CHF"	+	
Financial contributions made by Swiss partner(s) Copy the amount from "2.3: TOTAL CHF"	-	
Financial contributions made by the partner(s) in the partner country Copy the amount from "2.5: TOTAL CHF"	-	
In-kind contributions made by the Swiss principal applicant Copy the amount from 2.7.1: TOTAL CHF"	-	
In-kind contributions made by the partner(s) in the partner country Copy the amount from 2.7.2: TOTAL CHF"	-	
In-kind contributions made by third party partners (if applicable) Copy the amount from 2.7.3: TOTAL CHF"	-	
If applicable: Financial contributions made by third party partner(s) Copy the amount from "2.6: TOTAL CHF"	-	
TOTAL REQUESTED SEED MONEY GRANT CHF	=	

2.2. Total budget of the Swiss principal applicant

Total of projected costs needed by the Swiss-side partner(s) including contribution costs of Swiss Side

Category or Activity	Details	Costs in CHF
Salary contribution		
Travel expenses		



Cost of accommodation		
Cost of equipment		
Cost of consumables		
Other project related costs		
2.2: Total CHF		

2.3. Financial contributions made by the Swiss principal applicant

Category or activity	Details	Costs in CHF
Salary contribution		
Travel expenses		
Cost of accommodation		
Cost of equipment		
Cost of consumables		
Other project related costs		
2.3: TOTAL CHF		

2.4. Total budget required by the partner in the partner country

Category or Activity	Details	Costs in CHF
Salary contribution		
Travel expenses		
Cost of accommodation		
Cost of equipment		
Cost of consumables		
Other project related costs		
2.4: TOTAL CHF		

2.5. Financial contributions made by the partner(s) in the partner country

Category or Activity	Details	Costs in CHF
Salary contribution		
Travel expenses		
Cost of accommodation		



Cost of equipment		
Cost of consumables		
Other project related costs		
2.5: TOTAL CHF		

2.6. Financial co-funding by third party partners (if applicable)

Category or Activity	Details	Costs in CHF
Salary contribution		
Travel expenses		
Cost of accommodation		
Cost of equipment		
Cost of consumables		
Other project related costs		
2.6: TOTAL CHF		

2.7. In-kind contributions

E.g. access to computers, software, office space and/or equipment) made by Swiss principal applicant, the partner institute in the partner country, and third party partners. Please enter the equivalent of the in-kind contribution in Swiss francs value.

Category or activity	Swiss partner(s) CHF	Partner(s) in partner country CHF	Third party partners (if any) CHF
Working hours			
Local accommodation and/or living ex- penses			
Use of consumables, equipment and infra- structure			
Event organization / hosting			
Other project-related costs			
2.7.1: TOTAL CHF			
2.7.2: TOTAL CHF			
2.7.3: TOTAL CHF			



Application form - Part 2

3. Work plan (5 pages maximum)

3.1. Project title and abstract

The abstract should be a maximum of half a page and include a statement about the research plan, expected results and why the partnership is important (e.g. the future of the research collaboration)

3.2. Scientific merit or impact of the anticipated outcomes

Explain the main research questions and your proposal's objectives. In the case of fundamental research: Explain how your research proposal will contribute to the advancement of knowledge. In the case of applied research: Explain what impact your research proposal will have in society or economy.

3.3. Feasibility of the proposed activity

Explain how your research proposal is feasible.

3.4. Expertise and complementarities of the partner institutes and the applicants

Describe the proposed or existing research collaboration between the Swiss and the foreign partner institution and how they complement each other with their respective areas of expertise.

3.5. Potential for long-term collaboration and follow-up activities

If this grant is used for the purpose of preparing a new and larger research proposal, please indicate to which call and funding agency the research team plans to submit it. Explain the follow-up of the proposed research project.

3.6. Timeframe

Provide details about the intended timeframe and milestones

3.7. IPR

Explain the existing or intended intellectual property rights (IPR) agreements (if applicable)

Application form – Part 3

4. Annex

CVs of all involved collaborators (max. 2 pages each)